

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

Main Street Centre
600 E. Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2447

804/819-5400
Fax 804/771-2316

NEWS RELEASE

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Further Information Contact
Sue Vick 804-819-5400

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Nicholson Broughton, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Richmond Field Division, and Carl Baker, Chief, Chesterfield Police Department, announced that Kareem Richburg, age 24, of Chesterfield, Virginia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge James R. Spencer to 148 months' imprisonment for conspiracy to possess 5 kilograms or more of cocaine.

On July 4, 2002, Kareem Richburg met with another individual, later identified as Terrence Deas, at the Amerisuites Hotel in Chesterfield County, in the Eastern District of Virginia. Richburg and Deas had agreed to meet on that day with the understanding that Deas would sell approximately six kilograms of cocaine to Richburg. Richburg arrived at the Amerisuites accompanied by other individuals, and in possession of over \$100,000 in U.S. currency to be used to purchase the cocaine from Deas.

Richburg and Deas met in the parking lot and entered the hotel together, with Richburg carrying the \$100,000 in a zippered bag. As Richburg and Deas entered a room that had been rented by Richburg, Deas struck Richburg on the head, intending to rob him of the money. During the ensuing struggle, Richburg shot Deas with a firearm he had brought with him to the meeting, and then ran from the room. Deas, who was wounded in the shooting, fled the scene on foot, taking with him a large amount of cash Richburg had brought with him.

During the subsequent investigation, Chesterfield County police officers determined that Deas had arrived at the Amerisuites in a rental car. A search of the car's trunk revealed six wrapped packages the officers believed, at first, to be kilograms of cocaine. These packages were later determined not to contain controlled substances, but were, in fact, designed to deceive Richburg into thinking they were packages of cocaine.

Charges are pending against Deas in Chesterfield County for robbery and malicious wounding.

The case was investigated by DEA and Chesterfield County Police Department, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Peter S. Duffey.